

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EURE-00 NSC-07 SSO-00 INRE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 SPC-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DODE-00 PRS-01 PA-04 DRC-01 NEA-10 PM-07 H-03 SAM-01

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O R 081726Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8180

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 8604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: PRESS VIEWS OF PRESIDENT' S PARIS BILATERALS

SUMMARY: PRIME INTEREST FOR PARIS POLITICAL WRITERS ASSESSING  
PRESIDENT' S PARIS VISIT IN MONDAY MORNING PRESS WAS SERIES OF  
BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH OTHER LEADERS. SEVERAL THEMES RAN THROUGH  
ALL OF THIS COMMENTARY: (1) PRESIDENT WAS ENGAGED IN DOUBLE  
OPERATION IN PARIS -- ON ONE HAND, TO "SCORE POINTS" FOR U.S.  
POLICY TOWARD EUROPE IN A SERIES OF MINI-SUMMITS, TAKING ADVANTAGE  
OF TEMPORARY POWER VACUUM IN ELYSEE; AND SECOND, TO DISPLAY TO  
AMERICAN PUBLIC HIS CONTINUING PRESTIGE AS WORLD LEADER; (2)  
PRESIDENT WAS "OMNIPRESENT" IN PARIS, DOMINATING POLITICAL SCENE LIKE  
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"CHARLEMANGNE RECEIVING HIS BARONS", AND OPERATING A "DIPLOMATIC  
MEERY-GO-ROUND" THAT PROVIDED A "MAGISTRAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE

REALITY OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP"; (3) MEETING WITH PODGORNÝ, LONGER THAN OTHERS AND OVER BREAKFAST AS WELL, WAS INDICATION OF "SPECIAL" U.S. CONCERN FOR ITS RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW, AND A RE-EMPHASIS OF SOVIET-AMERICAN "CONDOMINIUM". END SUMMARY.

1. LE FIGARO'S JACQUES JACQUET-FRANCILLON: "THE HEAD OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATION IN THE WORKI, RICHARD NIXON, WANTED TO OFFER THE WARMEST AND GREATEST HOMAGE OF ALL TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU... RICHARD NIXON WENT ON TO TAKE OVER PARIS AND SET UP HIS COURT THERE FOR 24 HOURS... IT WAS CHARLEMAGNE, RECEIVING HIS BARONS -- A MAGNANIMOUS EMPEROR WHO HAD HIS SPOKESMAN SAY HE HAD NOT SUMMONED PEOPLE TO SEE HIM, BUT WAS WILLING TO GRANT AN AUDIENCE TO THOSE WHO WISHED TO SEE HIM." JACQUET-FRANCILLON TRACED THE FIRST FEW MEETINGS MR. NIXON HELD, THEN NOTED HE LEFT FOR THE QUI D'ORSAY WHERE. "IF HIS SPOKESMEN ARE TO BE BELIEVED, HE TALKED WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ABOUT 35 NATIONAL IF ONE CONSIDERS THE FACT THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT SPENT ONLY ABOUT 40 MINUTES THERE, HE MUEST NOT HAVE GOTTEN VERY FAR IN THOSE TALKS. HE WAS, IT IS TRUE, IN A HURRY TO GET BACK TO SERIOUS MATTERS...

2. "THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT MR. NIXON USED HIS POLITICAL GENIUS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PARALYSIS WHICH GEORGES POMPIDOU'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS INFLICTED ON FRENCH DIPLOMACY FOR THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS..."HE EVOKED AN ATLANTIC ' SUMMIT' .... A PROJECT WHICH HE HOLDS DEAR. HE HAD RENOUNCED THE IDEA TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEMATIC OPPOSITION. IT IS CLEAR THAT MR. NIXON STILL HOPES TO ACHIEVE IT BEFORE GOING TO MOSCOW IN JUNE... NOTHING SPECIFIC WAS AGREED ON FOR A POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE U.S. PRESIDENT TO EUROPE IN THE RELATIVELY NEAR FUTURE. BUT THE IDEA WAS DEFINITELY EVOKED, AND IT COULD MAKE PROGRESS BEFORE FRANCE IS ABLE TO ELECT NEW LEADERS WHO CAN TAKE A STANCE ON THE ISSUE... IN SHORT, A MAGISTRAL DEMONSTRATION OF THE REALITY OF AMERICAN LEADERSHIP..."

3. "BEFORE LEAVING THE EMBASSY, MR. NIXON ONCE AGAIN GAVE IN TO THE TEMPTATION TO PLUNGE INTO THE CROWDS. HE SHOOK HANDS AND ANSWERED THE ' BRAVO NIXONS' WITH THESE WORDS: ' I HAVE JUST HELD IMPORTANT TALKS IN VERY SAD CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT I HOPE TO RETURN. I LIKE PARIS.' "

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4 "THAT IS UNDERSTANDABLE. THE WEATHER WAS BEAUTIFUL. AND MR. NIXON HADN' T BEEN USED TO SUCH MANIFESTATIONS OF FRIENDLY FEELINGS. "THE PRESIDENTIAL BOEING LEFT ORLY AT 12:25, HEADED FOR RIVER BANKS LESS PLEASANT THAN THOSE OF THE SEINE: THE POTOMAC, WHOSE WATERS REFLECT THE IMPOSING FACADE OF AN ARCHITECTURALLY ATTRACTIVE COMPLEX WHICH BEARS A NAME RICHARD NIXON WOULD LIKE TO FORGET -- WATERGATE."

5. ROLAND FAURE IN L' AURORE: "NIXON WAITING FOR HIS GORILLAS

BEFORE GETTING OUT OF THIS ARMORED LINCOLN IN FRONT OF NOTRE DAME; NIXON BEGINNING A WARM CONVERSATION WITH THE SOVIET PRESIDENT AFTER THE MEMORIAL SERVICE; NIXON PLUNGING INTO THE CROWDS ON THE FAUBOURT SAINT-HONORE...NIXON HAVING BREAKFAST WITH PODGORNÝ; NIXON HAUGHTY AND SERIOUS ON ENTERING THE BASILICA, IMPATIENT AND ON EDGE ON LEAVING, VIVACIOUS AND DELIGHTED BY THE CHEERS OF THE FRENCH PUBLIC. NIXON OMNIPRESENT, WHOSE SILHOUETTE KEPT APPEARING AND BECAME ALMOST AN OBSESSION DURING THIS EXCEPTIONAL WEEKEND... A UNIQUE PICTURE -- THAT OF A MAN ATTACKED, THREATENED, BEATEN IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, WHO FOUND PRESTIGE, AUTHORITY AND POPULARITY 6,000 KILOMETERS FROM HIS CAPITAL.

6. "WHAT PLEASURE FOR RICHARD NIXON, PUSHED TO RESIGN FROM THE WHITE HOUSE, TO SEE RUNNING TO HIM, DURING THE SEVERAL HOURS HE SPENT AT THE AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE, THE HEADS OF THE GREATEST NATIONS -- ALLIES OR NOT -- IMPATIENT AND HONORED TO MEET HIM.

7. "WHAT A JOKE OF FATE -- TO THUS ALLOW THE AMERICAN CHIEF OF STATE TO ORGANIZE THE SERIES OF ' SUMMITS' AIMED AT REDEFINING INTER-ATLANTIC RELATIONS, WHICH UP UNTIL NOW THE DEMANDING VISIONS OF GENERAL DE GAULLE AND HIS SUCCESSOR HAD PREVENTED. AND WHAT A UNIQUE REVENGE FOR AMERICA TO SEE THIS HECTIC DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY IN THE FORMER ROTHCHILD RESIDENCE FLYING THE AMERICAN FLAG, ONLY A FEW STEPS FROM THE ELYSEE WHICH HAD ADDRESSED SO MANY INSULTS TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND WHERE AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE DECISION WAS MADE TO THROW AMERICAN FORCES OUT OF OUR TERRITORY AND TO WITHDRAW FRANCE FROM NATO."

8. A TELEVISION COMMENTATOR SUNDAY EVENING WONDERED IF "THIS IS PARIS, OR WASHINGTON-ON-SEINE? NIXON MADE PARIS THE CAPITAL OF U.S. DIPLOMACY. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THESE IMAGES -- THE PRESIDENT  
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WITH PODGORNÝ -- ARE AIMED AT AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, TELLING THEM: EVERYTHING GOES FINE WITH THE RUSSIANS  
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AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN  
USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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PARIS. PAPER DREW THREE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT MR. NIXON'S TALKS WITH  
VARIOUS LEADERS:

10. (A) ALL THAT FEVERISH ACTIVITY -- POLITICAL TALKS, CONTACTS  
WITH THE CROWDS -- WAS IN PART AIMED AT SHOWING AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINI  
ON  
THAT WATERGATE HAD NOT DAMAGED THE PRESIDENT'S PRESTIGE ABROAD.  
'B) OBSERVERS NOTED THE SPECIAL TREATMENT GIVEN MR. PODGORNÝ.  
WHO WAS INVITED TO HAVE BREAKFAST WITH MR. NIXON AND TO MEET WITH  
HIM FOR TWO HOURS. A SPECTACULAR DEMONSTRATION OF THE SOVIET-  
AMERICAN CONDOMINIUM IN THE CAPITAL OF A COUNTRY WHICH HAS CONTI-  
NUOUSLY CONDEMNED IT. (C) WITH THE EUROPEAN LEADERS HE RECEIVED  
SEPARATELY, NIXON WAS ABLE TO ACHIEVE A "SURROGATE" FOR THE ALLIED  
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SUMMIT HE WANTED IN ORDER TO CELEBRATE THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. HE WAS THUS ABLE TO PLEAD WITH HIS INTERLOCUTORS  
THE CAUSE OF STRENGTHENING 'CONSULTATIONS' BETWEEN THE TWO BANKS  
OF THE ATLANTIC, WASHINGTON WANTING TO EXERCISE A VETO RIGHT  
OVER COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE -- AN  
OFFENSIVE WHICH SEEMS TO BE SCORING POINTS. ON HIS RETURN  
TO BONN, CHANCELLOR BRANDT EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PARIS WOULD  
NOT OPPOSE THE SETTING UP OF A SYSTEM OF CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN  
EUROPE AND THE U.S. IN THE FUTURE AND THAT THE EUROPEANS WOULD  
CONTRIBUTE TO A STRENGTHENING OF THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. THE  
MARGIN FOR MANEUVER OF GEORGES POMPIDOU'S SUCCESSOR, WHOEVER HE  
IS, WILL THEREFORE BE NARROW."

12. APART FROM THE FIGARO COMMENT ABOVE, THE NEWSPAPER ALSO  
COMMENTED THAT "THE PARIS MINI-SUMMITS THUS ENDED SYMBOLICALLY  
(WITH THE NIXON-PODGORNÝ TALKS) IN A MANIFESTATION OF THE CONDOMI-  
NIUM WHICH SO ANNOYS MICHEL JOBERT. IT WOULD, OF COURSE, BE

SILLY TO TRY TO DRAW POLITICAL CONCLUSIONS IMMEDIATELY. BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT IN A SPECTACULAR SHORT-CUT, ALL THE MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS WERE JUST BELOW THE SURFACE AND ALMOST TANGIBLE DURING THE HOURS OF MOURNING IN PARIS. DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF HENRY KISSINGER, RICHARD NIXON DID NOT MISS THE CHANCE TO REAFFIRM HIS 'LEADERSHIP'. IT WAS NOT SIMPLY A QUESTION OF SHOWING AMERICAN TELEVISION CAMERAS HIS PRESTIGE, FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION IN THE U.S. EVERYTHING LEADS US TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN DIPLOMACY WILL TRY TO SCORE AS MANY POINTS AS POSSIBLE DURING THE TEMPORARY POWER VACUUM IN FRANCE."

13. EDMOND BERGHEAUD WROTE IN FRANCE SOIR THAT THE MEMORIAL MASS FOR POMPIDOU HAD BARELY ENDED WHEN HIS FOREIGN POLICY WAS "PUBLICLY BROUGHT INTO QUESTION BY BOTH RICHARD NIXON AND OUR MAIN PARTNERS IN THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. SINCE HE COULD NOT HAVE THE 'YEAR OF EUROPE'... MR. NIXON WILL HAVE HAD HIS 'EUROPEAN WEEKEND'. AND FOR SEVERAL HOURS ON SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE IN PARIS WAS A TEMPORARY WHITE HOUSE. OBVIOUSLY, DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONCERNS WERE NOT OFF RICHARD NIXON'S MIND. HE FOUND THE OCCASION TO SHOW THOSE WHO WANTS TO REMOVE HIM FROM POWER THAT HE STILL HAS A DECISIVE ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS AND THAT HE HAS BEGUN NEGOTIATIONS WITH EUROPEANS AND RUSSIANS WHICH ONLY HE CAN BRING TO FRUITION... IN HIS DIPLOMATIC SYMPHONY, FRANCE DID NOT PLAY THE MUSICAL SCORE  
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SHE WAS ASSIGNED, AND RICHARD NIXON'S PROTOCOL VISITS TO POHER AND MESSMER DID NOT GO BEYOND THE ORDINARY DESIRE TO SEE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. EVERYTHING HAPPENED AS THOUGH RICHARD NIXON HAD DECIDED TO ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING RESULTS BEFORE LEAVING POWER: TO BE THE UNCHALLENGED LEADER OF THE 'FREE WORLD' IN ORDER TO HAVE HIS HANDS FREE TO SHARE WITH MOSCOW THE DIRECTION OF WORLD AFFAIRS."

14. UNDER HEADLINE " A SUCCESSION OF MINI-SUMMITS", GAULLIST LA NATION SAID: "THE BELLS OF NOTRE DAME HAD BARELY STOPPED RINGING WHEN AN UNBELIEVABLE DIPLOMATIC MERRY-GO-ROUND STARTED. WITH PRESIDENT NIXON RUNNING IT... IT IS TRUE THAT AS FAR AS HIS MEETING WITH SOVIET PRESIDENT PODGORNYY AND JAPANESE PREMIER TANAKA WERE CONCERNED, IT WAS A MATTER OF PREPARING HIS VISITS TO MOSCOW AND TOKYO. BUT IT IS ALSO TRUE THAT MR. NIXON DID NOT MISS THE CHANCE OFFERED BY HIS IMPROMPTU TRIP TO EUROPE TO TRY TO ADVANCE THE ISSUES WHICH MEAN THE MOST TO HIM: THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WHICH HE CONSIDERS TO HAVE BEEN HELD BACK UNTIL NOW BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT; AND RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, TRYING TO DISPEL THE IMPRESSION OF A PARTIAL FAILURE OF HENRY KISSINGER'S LAST MISSION TO MOSCOW... IF ONE IS TO BELIEVE THE AMERICAN NEWSMEN WHO ACCOMPANIED THE PRESIDENT TO FRANCE, MR. NIXON WANTED TO ACHIEVE -- THROUGH THESE DOZEN LITTLE 'SUMMITS'-- A GOAL FOR DOMESTIC POLITICS: TO SHOW THOSE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC (INTHE U.S.) WHO ARE TRYING TO CHASE HIM FROM

POWER, THAT HE HOLDS THE PRIMORIDAL ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS."  
LA NATION WENT ON TO WARN MR. NIXON THAT, IF HE THINKS FRENCH  
POLICY WILL CHANGE BECAUSE OF A CHANGE IN REGIME, HE MAY BE MISTAKEN.  
"IT WOULD BE ILLUSORY FOR NIXON OR FOR OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO  
THINK THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL, BECAUSE PRESIDENT POMPIDOU,  
IS GONE,RUSH TO FORGET HIS MESSAGE."

15. JEAN-PIERRE CORNET WORTE IN LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS (A NEW  
DAILY) THAT "MR. NIXON LOST NO TIME. HE HELD A BRIEF 'EUROPEAN  
SUMMIT' IN PARIS, THE VERY PLACE WHERE THE IDEA WAS NOT THE MOST  
WLECOME. LIKE A SUZERAIN, HE SETTLED FOR A REMINDER OF ALLEGIANCE  
FROM HIS VISITORS. HE SNEAKED INTO THE PREPARATION OF THE NEXT  
FRANCO-GERMAN 'SUMMIT'. AND HE COUNTED ON THE MASS MEDIA TO  
REPORT TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC THE IMPRESSION THAT  
THE ONLY HAD TO APPEAR FOR EVERYTHING TO RETUN TO ITS PLACE.  
IT WAS MR. KISSINGER'S REVENGE OVER MR. JOBERT."

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## Message Attributes

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